

*News from*

***New Hampshire's  
Community Technical Colleges  
Board of Trustees***

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**Trustees Concerned about Potential Tuition Hike  
for Community Technical Colleges**

Concord, NH – The Finance Committee of the NH Community Technical College System Board of Trustees met today and expressed concern that the funds currently included in the Community Technical College System budget for the next two fiscal years will not be sufficient to keep tuition at its current level, a hope repeatedly expressed by the Governor since the state budget process has been underway.

“The Community Technical Colleges are facing increased salary and benefit expenses that are outside their control as a state agency, and unless the state appropriates funds for the increase, it will constitute a massive cut to the colleges’ operating budgets,” explained Finance Committee Chair Dave Paquette of Hooksett. “We’re looking at millions of dollars in increased personnel costs over the next biennium based on the colleges’ current workforce. The only way to offset such a cut would be through a considerable tuition increase. The colleges have already streamlined to the point of risking to under-serve their students – including managing a 55% increase in enrollment over the last 6 years with only a 16% increase in staff,” continued Paquette. “Our goal is to provide a quality education for the thousands of students who come through these colleges and go on to become the backbone of New Hampshire’s skilled workforce.”

Added NHCTCS Board Chair Paul Holloway, “Ninety-five percent of NHCTC students are from New Hampshire, and nine out of ten remain in the state to work. These are our nurses, radiation therapists, computer technicians, dental hygienists, aviation technicians, and a host of other skilled professionals critical to our economy and expensive to train. If we want a healthy economy in this state, we need to make sure the Community Technical Colleges continue to provide access to an education that is not only affordable, but worth the investment. Already our colleges have one of the highest tuition rates of any community college in the country.”

Tuition for the 2004-5 academic year is \$148 per credit, up \$15 from the prior academic year.

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